DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT.

Restoration of occupancies resumed last year for non-payment of arrears of revenue.

READ—

Letter No. C. 1357—32-33, dated 1st November 1932, from the Revenue Commissioner, stating that a large number of lands were resumed last year for non-payment of arrears of revenue due to the low prices of food grains and other economic difficulties, that it is desirable to show some concessions to the raiyats in case they pay up the arrears, and recommending that the forfeited occupancies in all the districts may be restored, as a special case, till the end of January 1933, on payment of the arrears, and further proposing that while restoring the khates, the forfeiture, sale proclamation and other process fees may be waived in deserving cases as also the interest in specially hard cases at the discretion of the Deputy Commissioners.

ORDER NO. R. 2833-42—L. R. 172-32-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 26—30TH NOVEMBER 1932.

The recommendation of the Revenue Commissioner is sanctioned. Government consider it inexpedient to waive the recovery of stamp duty on applications presented for restoration of khates.

S. ABDUL WAJID,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Administration of the Sericultural Department for the year 1931-32.

READ—

Report on the working of the Sericultural Department during the year 1931-32 and the review thereon by the Director of Industries and Commerce, received with Director's letter No. D4-Per—32-33, dated 5th November 1932.

ORDER NO. D. 2336-45—SERI, 23-32-3, DATED BANGALORE, THE 28TH NOVEMBER 1932.

Recorded.

2. Government note with satisfaction that the products of the new Silk Factory at Mysore have proved popular and that forward orders for them are being registered.

3. The indigenous sericultural industry is passing through critical times, chiefly owing to the dumping of Chinese and Japanese silks at very low prices. Government are carefully watching the situation and the question of affording relief to those engaged in the industry to tide over the crisis is engaging their active consideration.

S. ABDUL WAJID,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Work done in the office of the Trade Commissioner for Mysore in London during the year 1931-32.

READ—

Report of work done in the office of the Trade Commissioner for Mysore in London, during the year 1931-32, received with letter dated 14th October 1932 from the Trade Commissioner.

ORDER NO. D. 2438-89—T. C. 5-32-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 2ND DECEMBER 1932.

Recorded.

2. Mr. C. Ranganatha Rao Sahib succeeded Mr. B. T. Kesaviengar as Trade Commissioner on 11th September 1931.

3. As a consequence of the continued slump in the demand for luxury articles and the violent disturbances in the exchange market, there was a considerable decline in the sales of sandal oil in Europe and America. The total sales during the year under review amounted only to 64,137 lbs. as against 1,21,158 lbs. during 1930-31. The Trade Commissioner has made certain proposals in his report calculated to improve and stabilise the position of sandal oil sales in future. These will be remitted to the Sandal Oil Board for detailed examination and formulation of definite recommendations for the orders of Government.

4. The total number of purchase orders for stores and machinery required for Government Departments handled by the Trade Commissioner, during the year was 177 as against 190 in the previous year. The Trade Commissioner has made certain observations in regard to the present procedure for purchase of stores from foreign countries. The Stores Purchase Committee will be requested to examine these suggestions, as also his proposal that the fixed charges of £300 now transferred from his budget to the Stores Purchase Committee budget, may be increased by £130 in view of the additional work that has devolved on his office.

5. The total expenditure incurred by the Trade Commissioner, during the year amounted to £20,000 of which £14,639 related to sandal oil expenses and a sum of £2,988 represents the amount spent on account of expenditure for other Departments of Government.

6. The Trade Commissioner has presented a very interesting report of his work and activities. Trade conditions during the year were extremely trying and called for vigilance and prompt action on his part. Government desire to place on record their appreciation of the work done by Mr. C. Ranganatha Rao Sahib.

S. ABDUL WAJID,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

Administration of the Department of Mines and Explosives for the year 1931-32.

READ—

Letter No. 497, dated 15th September 1932, from the Chief Inspector of Mines, submitting the Administration Report of the Department of Mines and Explosives for the year 1931-32.

ORDER No. D. 2498-508—GEOL: 36-32-3, DATED BANGALORE, THE 2ND DECEMBER 1932.

Recorded.

2. *Personnel.*—Mr. C. E. Suryanarayana Rao continued as Chief Inspector of Mines in the year under report.

3. *Mining and Prospecting.*—The following statement shows the number of leases, licenses and certificates of approval current in the year under report as compared with those current in the previous year:—

	1930-31.	1931-32.
Mining leases	42	40
Prospecting licenses	9	9
Collecting licenses	3	6
Exploring licenses	..	..
Certificates of approval	13	14
Total ..	67	69

The total area under mining leases and prospecting licenses was 26,311 acres and the total rents and cesses recovered in respect of them amounted to Rs. 16,866. The total number of mining leases for gold was 21, the same as in the previous year.

4. *Gold Mining.*—Mining operations were in progress in the five blocks on the Kolar Gold Fields as in the previous year. The Balaghat Block worked by the Balaghat Gold Mines, Ltd., was assigned to the Nundydroog Mines, Ltd., with effect from 1st May, 1932 for £40,000. After deducting royalty and other charges from the net sale proceeds of the bullion recovered from the mine, the remaining profit is divided in the ratio of 75 per cent to the Balaghat Mines, Ltd., and 25 per cent to the Nandydroog Mines, Ltd. The nominal and the paid up capital of all companies carrying on operations in Mysore, remained the same as in the past year, *viz.*, £1,717,000 and £1,667,737, respectively. The total quantities of fine gold and silver produced during the calendar year 1931 amounted to 330,434·024 ozs. and and 22,604·850 ozs., respectively, as against 329,133·876 ozs. and 17,843·988 ozs. during the previous year. The total value of fine gold and silver produced amounted to £1,560,739-10-4 as against £1,396,145-14-4 (revised) in 1930 showing an increase of £164,593-16-0 due to high price of gold prevailing in the market and to the small increase of production. The total amount paid in dividends was £219,010-16-0 as against £179,000-0-0, showing an increase of £40,010-16-0. The royalty payable to Government on the gold and silver won and dividends paid amounted to £83,094-0-4 as against £74,060-6-11 (revised) in the previous year, showing an increase of £9,033-13-5. Calculated in Indian currency, the total demand on account of royalty payable to Government on gold and silver for the calendar year 1931, including the balance due for the previous year amounted to Rs. 14,44,081-3-0 out of which Rs. 11,06,720 was collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 3,37,361-3-0.

5. *Position of the Mines.*—The estimated total ore reserves of all the mines at the end of the year 1931 show a decrease of 62,623 tons against a decrease of 127,106 tons at the end of 1930.

The Champion Reef and Oorgaum Mines have reached a vertical depth of over 7,100 feet below the field datum. All possible arrangements are being made to ensure an adequate supply of fresh air to all the working places. All the new shafts and winzes which serve as airways are smoothlined in brick or concrete not only to minimise the effects of rock-bursts but also to reduce friction and electrically driven fans have been erected in the course of the main airways to aid the circulation of air currents. The question of providing adequate ventilation in deep mines which is a very difficult problem is reported to be engaging the attention of the management. The rescue station, as usual, is being maintained in an efficient condition. Since the occurrence of the disastrous fire in the Nundydroog Mine in May 1931, certain additional precautions have been taken by providing refuge stations with compressed air jets at suitable places. The 'safety first' campaign is being carried on vigorously as usual. In addition to this, the 'scout movement' which has recently been organised is spreading rapidly amongst the workmen making them more effecient, self-reliant and resourceful.

6. *Other Minerals.*—The following statement shows the output and other particulars of minerals other than gold worked during the year :—

Name of mineral	Output	Quantity removed from block	Royalty payable
	Tons	Tons	Rs. a. p.
Manganese	527·25	5,092·55	2,273 3 4
Chromite	4,000·45 (34·25 concentrated.)	7,017·55	6,442 11 7
Magnesite	335	1,486	1,760 0 0 (dead-rent.)
Kaolin	2,242·45	2,242·45	1,813 13 0
	28	28	28 0 0
Soapstone	100	100	175 0 0
Green quartzite	1·07	....	....

7. *Mining Revenue.*—The total demand under mining revenue, other than royalty on gold, for the year 1931-32 was Rs. 76,816-8-0 and out of this, a sum of Rs. 76,627-3-7 was collected leaving a balance of Rs. 189-4-5 to be recovered.

8. *Inspection of Mines.*—Owing to the increasing depths of mines in the Kolar Gold Fields, inspection work is becoming more arduous and exacting. In addition to the numerous inspections connected with accidents, all the mines were systematically inspected and no serious lapses of the Mining Rules were noticed. Enquiries into all fatal and serious accidents and trivial ones in which a breach of the rules were reported or suspected have been held. Examination for the grant of certificates of maistries, blasters and engine drivers, (first and second class) was conducted by the Department once a week. In all, 372 candidates were examined and 82 duplicate tickets (discs) were issued, the original having been lost by the applicants during the year. The examination fees realised amounted to Rs. 1,713-9-0 against Rs. 2,583-9-0 in the previous year, the decrease being due to less number of candidates examined. Under standing orders, the annual inspection of the books and accounts of the Oorgaum Gold Mining Company of India, Ltd., was conducted by the Comptroller in association with the Chief Inspector of Mines.

Some blocks, outside the Kolar Gold Fields were inspected during the year in Kolar, Mysore, Tumkur, Hassan and Shimoga Districts. The slump in the world's markets for the two important base metals of the State, *viz.*, Manganese and Chromium, continues to be the same as in the previous year. The United Steel Companies, Ltd., Workington Iron and Steel Branch, Shimoga and the Peninsular Minerals Company, Ltd., have, owing to trade depression, both surrendered their leases. The Chrome Ore Industry of the State has also received a serious check. Most of the chrome mining concerns have suspended operations except at Sinduvalli Mine. The workings in most of the other blocks were generally satisfactory.

9. *Mining Labour.*—The total number of persons employed in the mining industry in 1931 was 19,109 as against 18,925 in the previous year. Of the 18,388 persons employed in Gold Mining, 341 were Europeans, 400 Anglo-Indians and 17,647 Indians, as many as 9,954 persons being employed below ground and 8,434 on surface. The relationship between the employer and the employee is reported to be satisfactory. The report of the Special Officer appointed by Government to enquire into the Labour conditions on the Kolar Gold Fields has since been published and many of the recommendations made in it have already been given effect to and other points are engaging the attention of the Mine management. All the five mines have had a welfare policy for their employees but early last year, it was decided to entrust all welfare work on the Field to a Central Committee under the supervision of a European welfare officer. Each mine has a Welfare Committee consisting of the Superintendent of the Mine with eight others, both Indian and European workers. Housing, improvement in living conditions, sanitation, facilities for bathing and washing, lighting, day and night schools, recreation halls, organisation of lectures on temperance, domestic economy, thrift, hygiene, etc., scouting, laying out parks and play grounds, games, electric gramaphones and maternity and child welfare are some of the subjects in which these welfare committees are interested. Government are glad to note the action taken by the Mining Companies for the welfare of the labourers by introducing various measures for the amelioration of their condition.

10. *Accidents.*—The total number of accidents reported during the year was 200 against 186 in the previous year. Of these accidents, 35 were fatal, 160 serious and 5 non-mining. All the 195 mining accidents were enquired into and 22 were found to be due to negligence, 10 to recklessness and 163 were classed as unavoidable as against 14, 12 and 158, respectively, in the previous year. The death rate in the Gold Mines in the year 1931 was 7·12 per 1,000 as against 2·31 per 1,000 in 1930, the abnormally high rate being due to the disastrous fire accident in the Nundydroog Mine. Out of 35 fatal accidents, 15 were due to rock-bursts resulting in the death of 59 persons. It is reported that, in spite of precautions taken, the accidents continue to occur followed by heavy fatalities. It was, therefore, felt necessary to make a thorough investigation into the causes of rock-bursts and Government accordingly approved of a special Committee being constituted to go into the question for suitable measures being adopted for their prevention. Their report is awaited.

11. *Compensation for Injuries.*—During the year under review, 143 claims for compensation were settled by the Mining Companies and the compensation awarded in fatal cases and cases of permanent total disablement and permanent partial disablement amounted to Rs. 1,17,984-8-0 as against Rs. 88,441-15-0 during the previous

year. Besides the above, compensation amounting to Rs. 13,360-1-0 was paid in cases of temporary disablement as against Rs. 17,411-15-0 in the previous year.

12. *Prosecutions*—Forty-four persons involved in 37 cases were prosecuted in connection with the theft and illegal possession of mining materials and of these, 40 were convicted. Fifteen cases were also dealt with for breach of rules, accidents, etc.

13. *Explosives.*—During the year, 703 licenses were granted under the Mysore Explosives Rules as against 747 during the previous year, showing a decrease of 44 licenses. Twelve reports of inspection of Government magazines in charge of Civil Officers were received in the Chief Inspector's Office as against 15 reports of inspection in the previous year and irregularities and defects requiring the adoption of remedial measures have been brought to the notice of the officers concerned. The total number of inspections of explosives premises carried out by the Magistracy and the Police was 651 against 529 during the previous year. Government note with satisfaction the marked progress in the inspection of explosives premises during the year under report and wish to reiterate the necessity for the systematic inspection of all these premises in future. There were 19 cases of prosecution under the Mysore Explosives Rules during the year as against 16 in the previous year. Sixty-five accidents due to explosives involving the death of 15 persons and serious and trivial injuries to 79 others were reported during the calendar year 1931 as against 58 accidents resulting in the death of 14 persons and injuries to 76 others in the previous year.

14. *Special Rules for Small Mines.*—Government have, in their order dated 28th June 1932, sanctioned a set of Special Rules framed under the Mysore Mines Regulation to govern small mines worked on the open cast system or by other methods for the prevention of accidents.

General.—The work of the Department during the year was satisfactory.

S. ABDUL WAJID,
Secretary to Government,
Development Department.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

Non-official Members of the Stores Purchase Committee.

ORDER NO. G. 3879-90—G. M. 63-32-2, DATED BANGALORE, THE 29TH NOVEMBER 1932.

Government are pleased to nominate Messrs. B. K. Garudachar and K. S. Iyer as non-official members of the Stores Purchase Committee for a period of one year, representing the Board of Industries and Commerce.

H. V. RAMASVAMI,
Secretary to Government,
General Department.